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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Peter G. Bourne
Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT: The President's Message on Drug Abuse

1. The President's 2 August 1977 message to Congress on drug abuse called for increased emphasis on the collection and analysis of information relating to international drug trafficking, and I am pleased to report that the Central Intelligence Agency has made considerable progress toward this end. CIA continues to assign a high priority to narcotics intelligence, focusing its international operations primarily on the major narcotics producing countries of the world.

2. For several months CIA has worked closely with the Office of Drug Abuse Policy (ODAP) and with other Federal departments and agencies concerned with narcotics intelligence programs and policies in a thorough and comprehensive study of the overall narcotics intelligence effort. It is our firm belief that as a result of this study there will be several positive steps taken and recommendations made that will strengthen the entire program. For example, this Study should be the basis for a much improved coordination process, enabling the intelligence community to make an even greater contribution in the future.

3. The CIA is responsive to narcotics-related information requirements emanating from the policy making and law enforcement officials responsible for shaping the U.S. Government's worldwide drug abuse programs. CIA is currently taking steps to augment its coverage of the important Golden Triangle area of Southeast Asia. A similar program to improve our knowledge of the potentially dangerous opium growing areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan is also underway. In Latin America the CIA continues to focus on Mexico, a major source of heroin, and on the cocaine producing countries of South America.

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4. The production of finished analytical intelligence on the political and economic aspects of the international drug trafficking also is a continuing requirement. In this context CIA is currently at work on the development of an improved capability to monitor the opium poppy cultivation.

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STANSFIELD TURNER

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